GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2498
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
Suicides in Campuses
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the data of student suicides in school and college campuses during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
(b) whether the Ministry is collecting or recording data regarding the reasons or causes behind such suicides and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Ministry is promoting counseling sessions for students; and
(d) if so, the details of other steps taken by the Government to prevent such suicides?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a): Data of Student Suicides in schools and colleges is not available, however, Indian Institute of Technology's (IITs), University Grant Commission (UGC), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) have reported the data of student suicides.

(i) During the last three years, 12 cases of suicides have been reported in various IITs, which include 4 cases in 2014, 5 cases in 2015 and 3 cases in 2016.

(ii) University Grant Commission (UGC) has received 35 suicides cases on Anti − Ragging helpline from 1.1.2014 to 26.7.2017. State-wise and Year-wise suicides cases details are at Annexure-I.

(iii) The details of student suicides in Navodaya Vidyalayas in the last three years/current year State wise is at Annexure − II.

(iv) In Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) no case of student suicide in school campus has been reported for the last three years and current year.

(v) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is an examination conducting body and does not maintain data pertaining to suicide by students.

(b): No study has been done regarding reasons or causes behind suicides by students, however, the reasons vary from Academic stress, domestic and personnel reasons. UGC has appointed monitoring agency for collecting or recording data of ragging complaints. The details of all such complaints are updated on UGC Anti Ragging Website www.antiragging.in or www.amanmovement.org. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti collect and maintain the data regarding the reasons / causes behind such suicides.

(c) and (d): (i) IITs have been taking various steps such as peer assisted learning, special languages classes for week students in order to ease the academic stress. In addition, IITs conduct Workshops /Seminars on Happiness and wellness, regular sessions on Yoga, induction programs, extracurricular activities including sports and cultural activities and appointment of Student Counselors for overall personality development and distressing students.

(ii) UGC has notified the UGC Anti Ragging Regulations or curbing the menace of ragging in higher educational institutions, 2009. The UGC has made it mandatory for all institutions to incorporate in their prospectus the directions of the Government regarding prohibition and consequences of ragging. A nation-wide toll free 24X7 anti ragging helpline 1800-180-5522 in 12 languages has been established which can be accessed by students in distress owing to ragging related incidents. UGC has also developed the Anti Ragging Mobile Application for filing the complaint on ragging, filing

the affidavit and for calling the Toll Free Anti Ragging Helpline Number and same may be downloaded from Google Play Store. UGC has developed the Anti Ragging website i.e. www.antiragging.in . The portal contains record of registered complaints received and the status of the action taken thereon. Secretary, UGC sends the circular twice a year regarding strict compliance of UGC Regulations on curbing the menace of ragging in higher educational institutions. From time to time the UGC issues Public Notice in leading national newspapers to make awareness about the ragging.

(iii) Counselors are engaged in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV)on need basis. Safety and security guidelines have been issued and updated regularly. Training of Teachers are also conducted regularly in different Institutes like National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences and Navodaya Leadership Institutes etc.

(iv) Counseling sessions are conducted by KVS for students by qualified counselors.

(v) CBSE has taken the following measures regarding counseling sessions in schools:
? It is required under the Affiliation Bye-laws of CBSE that every school shall appoint a full time counselor (Health and Wellness Teacher). If number of students is less than 300, the school could appoint the counselor on part-time basis.

? CBSE vide its circular dated 8th March, 2008, regarding "Counseling in Schools" CBSE had inter alia reiterated that at secondary and senior secondary stages at least twenty sessions of psychological counseling must be provided to every student in an academic session. Parents and teachers may also be involved in such session. Education in life skill can be given greater thrust in classes VI − VIII to inculcate the desirable value system.

? CBSE also provides appropriate counseling services to both students and the parents through a helpline programme before the commencement of the examination and also during the declaration of results. The Board provides counseling service through telephone, IVRS, leading newspapers and online modes.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) vide its circular number 24, dated July 14, 2009 and Circular No. Acad. − 17/2015 dated March 15, 2015 suggested measures to curb ragging and bullying in schools. It has been unambiguously informed to schools that in case of default on directives, they will be penalized severely and stringent action to the extent of disaffiliation may be taken against them. In all such cases it is the Head of the Organisation who will be held accountable.
CBSE has also taken a host of measures to reduce the stress caused by examination, some of them are as follows

? Restructuring the question papers to reduce the number of questions based on memory and giving 15 minutes of additional time to students, during Board examination, for reading the question paper before they begin to write the answers.

? The Board also publishes support materials such as sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarize the students with all aspects of examination.

? Performance Analysis which is based on the actual answers given by students in class X & XII Board's Examination published by CBSE also help students and teachers to get an insight into the commonly occurring errors and shortcomings in the answers of candidates.

(vi) The Framework for Implementation of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) recognizes the role of guidance and counseling services in promoting student retention and better scholastic performance in curricular areas, facilitating adjustment and career development of students, developing right attitude towards studies, self, work and others. The Framework provides that every school should have at least one teacher and preferably two teachers (one male and one female) trained in guidance and counseling. The in-service teacher training under RMSA has incorporated a module on counseling.

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